

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER (NQS)

RESOURCE CATEGORY	Incident Management
RESOURCE KIND	Personnel
OVERALL FUNCTION	The Public Information Officer (PIO) disseminates community information to the public
COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This position can be ordered as a single resource or in conjunction with a NIMS typed team (Incident Management Team). 2. Discuss logistics for deploying this position, such as working conditions, length of deployment, security, lodging, transportation and meals, prior to deployment. 3. Requestor specifies any additional qualifications necessary, based on incident complexity and needs.

Each type of resource builds on the qualifications of the type below it. For example, Type 1 qualifications include the qualifications in Type 2, plus an increase in capability. Type 1 is the highest qualification level.

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	NOTES
DESCRIPTION	Same as Type 2, PLUS: Conducts public information and external affairs activities in complex and protracted operations involving state, regional and Federal entities	Same as Type 3, PLUS: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interfaces with PIOs from other agencies and jurisdictions to ensure the release of accurate information to the public and media 2. Develops and implements a transition plan based on escalating incident complexity 	The ICS PIO: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Serves in an ICS role 2. Interfaces with the public, media and other agencies; monitors public information to ensure accuracy 3. Engages in active communication and information sharing with elected and appointed officials 4. Collects, verifies, prepares, coordinates and disseminates community-related incident information to the public through the news media, radio, newspaper and social media stakeholders to provide information and updates based on changes in incident status 5. Uses information from other members of the Incident Management Team (IMT) and Command and General Staff to develop accurate, accessible and complete information on an incident's cause, size, current situation, resources committed and other matters of general interest for internal and external audiences 6. Establishes a Joint Information Center (JIC) and a Joint Information System (JIS) as necessary 7. Supervises assistants, as necessary 	Not Specified

Position Qualification for Public Information and Warning
Incident Management

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	NOTES
EDUCATION	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified
TRAINING	Same as Type 2	Same as Type 3, PLUS: 1. E/L 0388: Advanced Public Information Officer, or equivalent	Completion of the following: 1. IS-29: Public Information Officer Awareness 2. IS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS-100 3. IS-200: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, ICS-200 4. ICS-300: Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents 5. ICS-400: Advanced Incident Command System for Command and General Staff - Complex Incidents 6. IS-700: National Incident Management System, An Introduction 7. IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction 8. E/G/L 0191: Emergency Operations Center/Incident Command System Interface 9. E/L 0952: National Incident Management System Incident Command System All-Hazards Public Information Officer, or equivalent 10. United States Fire Administration (USFA) O-0305: Type 3 All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) Introduction, or equivalent	1. Identified equivalent trainings should meet or exceed course learning objectives. 2. The NIMS Training Program defines a national baseline to guide and promote NIMS training. It provides recommendations to assist the Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) in developing their own training plans, tailored to their specific needs. 3. ICS PIOs serving in an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or JIC should refer to the NIMS Training Program for training.
EXPERIENCE	Same as Type 2, PLUS: 1. Successful completion of the National Qualification System (NQS) Position Task Book (PTB) for the NIMS Type 1 Incident Command System Public Information Officer, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Successful performance as a NIMS Type 2 ICS PIO	Same as Type 3, PLUS: 1. Successful completion of the NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 2 Incident Command System Public Information Officer, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Successful performance as a NIMS Type 3 ICS PIO	1. Successful completion of the NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 3 Incident Command System Public Information Officer, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Experience in incident management in a subordinate position	Not Specified
PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS	Same as Type 2	Same as Type 3	Light	The NIMS Guideline for the NQS defines Physical/Medical Fitness levels for NQS positions.

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COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	NOTES
CURRENCY	Functions in this position during a qualifying incident, planned event, exercise, drill or simulation at least once every three years	Same as Type 3	Functions in this position or a higher position during a qualifying incident, planned event, exercise, drill or simulation at least once every three years	A higher position is one for which this position is a prerequisite.
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified



Position Qualification for Public Information and Warning Incident Management

NOTES

1. Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated component and capability.
2. Additional training on this position is available from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group at <https://www.nwccg.gov/positions>.

REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 508: Incident Management Team
2. FEMA, National Qualification System (NQS) Position Task Book for Public Information Officer, latest edition adopted
3. FEMA, National Incident Management System (NIMS), October 2017
4. FEMA, NIMS Guideline for the NQS, November 2017
5. FEMA, NIMS Training Program, May 2020
6. FEMA, National Response Framework, October 2019
7. National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), Position Catalog, latest edition published
8. United States Fire Administration (USFA), O-0305: All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) Introduction, latest edition published